

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Thomas A. Ciccone

JUDGE KOELTL

13 CV 3539

COMPLAINT
FOR EMPLOYMENT
DISCRIMINATION

(In the space above enter the full name(s) of the plaintiff(s).)

-against-

Related Management

Jury Trial: ☒ Yes ☐ No

(check one)

(In the space above enter the full name(s) of the defendant(s).
If you cannot fit the names of all of the defendants in the space
provided, please write "see attached" in the space above and
attach an additional sheet of paper with the full list of names.
Typically, the company or organization named in your charge
to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission should be
named as a defendant. Addresses should not be included here.)

This action is brought for discrimination in employment pursuant to: (check only those that apply)

☒ Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as codified, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e to 2000e-17 (race, color, gender, religion, national origin).

NOTE: In order to bring suit in federal district court under Title VII, you must first obtain a Notice of Right to Sue Letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

☒

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as codified, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621 - 634.

NOTE: In order to bring suit in federal district court under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, you must first file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

☒ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as codified, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12112 - 12117.

NOTE: In order to bring suit in federal district court under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must first obtain a Notice of Right to Sue Letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

☒

New York State Human Rights Law, N.Y. Exec. Law §§ 290 to 297 (age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status).

☒

New York City Human Rights Law, N.Y. City Admin. Code §§ 8-101 to 131 (actual or perceived age, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, marital status, partnership status, sexual orientation, alienage, citizenship status).

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
S.D. OF N.Y.
13 MAY 24 2013

I. Parties in this complaint:

- A. List your name, address and telephone number. Do the same for any additional plaintiffs named. Attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

Plaintiff Name Thomas A. Ciccone
 Street Address 61 Ramapo Ave
 County, City Rockland, Suffern
 State & Zip Code New York, 10901
 Telephone Number (845) 893-4350

- B. List all defendants' names and the address where each defendant may be served. Make sure that the defendant(s) listed below are identical to those contained in the above caption. Attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

Defendant Name Related Management
 Street Address 423 West 55th Street, 9th Floor
 County, City New York County, Manhattan
 State & Zip Code New York, 10019
 Telephone Number (212) 521-6409

- C. The address at which I sought employment or was employed by the defendant(s) is:

Employer Related Management
 Street Address 205 West 76th Street
 County, City New York County, Manhattan
 State & Zip Code New York, 10023
 Telephone Number (212) 595-0190

II. Statement of Claim:

State as briefly as possible the facts of your case, including relevant dates and events. Describe how you were discriminated against. If you are pursuing claims under other federal or state statutes, you should include facts to support those claims. You may wish to include further details such as the names of other persons involved in the events giving rise to your claims. Do not cite any cases. If you intend to allege a number of related claims, number and set forth each claim in a separate paragraph. Attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

- A. The discriminatory conduct of which I complain in this action includes: *(check only those that apply)*

☐ Failure to hire me.
☐ Termination of my employment.
☐ Failure to promote me.
☐ Failure to accommodate my disability.
☒ Unequal terms and conditions of my employment.

X Retaliation.

 X Other acts (specify): Jokes about my age, retirement.

Note: Only those grounds raised in the charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission can be considered by the federal district court under the federal employment discrimination statutes.

B. It is my best recollection that the alleged discriminatory acts occurred on: 2/2012-6/2012; 5/2011.
Date(s)

C. I believe that defendant(s) (check one):

 is still committing these acts against me.

 X is not still committing these acts against me.

D. Defendant(s) discriminated against me based on my (check only those that apply and explain):

☐ race ☐ color

☐ gender/sex ☐ religion

☐ national origin

☒ age. My date of birth is May 14, 1954 (Give your date of birth only if you are asserting a claim of age discrimination.)

☐ disability or perceived disability, (specify)

E. The facts of my case are as follow (attach additional sheets as necessary):

1. When requesting a transfer to a shift with better hours (non-overnight shift) or to a different position (porter), I was repeatedly denied, while other younger employees in their 30s, were allowed to transfer between shifts and jobs.
2. When I asked why I was denied the change in shift/position, Management used words like, "not a good fit," "the condo board does not want change," and "chemistry."
3. Subsequently, I was retaliated against on July 2012 for filing a Complaint to the EEO with a letter.

Note: As additional support for the facts of your claim, you may attach to this complaint a copy of your charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights or the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

III. Exhaustion of Federal Administrative Remedies:

A. It is my best recollection that I filed a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or my Equal Employment Opportunity counselor regarding defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct on: 7/9/2012 (Date).

B. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (*check one*):

☒ has not issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter.
☐ issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter, which I received on 3/4/2013 (Date).

Note: Attach a copy of the Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to this complaint.

C. Only litigants alleging age discrimination must answer this Question.

Since filing my charge of age discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct (*check one*):

☒ 60 days or more have elapsed.
☐ less than 60 days have elapsed.

IV. Relief:

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays that the Court grant such relief as may be appropriate, including injunctive orders, damages, and costs, as follows: Liquidated damages of \$ 65,000 - \$ 1,000,000 for a year and a half that

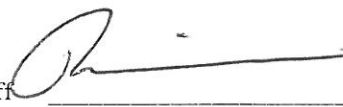
Management willfully discriminated against me, plus damages for pain and suffering (insomnia, elevated heart beat), and any other relief that this Court deems just and equitable under the circumstances.

(Describe relief sought, including amount of damages, if any, and the basis for such relief.)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this 21 day of May, 2013.

Signature of Plaintiff



Address

61 Ramapo Ave

Suffern, New York 10901

taciccone@verizon.net

Telephone Number

(845) 596-7943

Fax Number (*if you have one*)



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
New York District Office

Kevin J. Berry
District Director

33 Whitehall Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004-2112
For General Information: (800) 669-4000
TTY: (800)-669-6820
District Office: (212) 336-3620
General FAX: (212) 336-3625

Via U.S. Mail

Thomas Ciccone
61 Ramapo Avenue
Suffern, NY 10901

Re: ***Thomas Ciccone v. Related Management***
EEOC Charge No. : 520-2012-02999

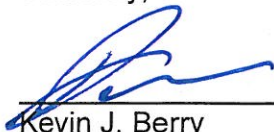
Dear Mr. Ciccone:

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC" or "Commission") enforces discrimination laws under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"), which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin; the Equal Pay Act of 1963 ("EPA"), which protects men and women who perform substantially equal work in the same establishment from sex-based wage discrimination; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 ("ADEA"), which protects individuals who are 40 years of age or older; The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act ("ADAAA"), which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA").

The EEOC has Charge of Discrimination ("Charge") prioritization procedures and these procedures call for the Commission to focus its limited resources on those cases that are most likely to result in findings of violations of the laws that we enforce. In accordance with these procedures the Commission has evaluated your Charge and based upon the evidence that you have submitted, the EEOC has decided not to further pursue its investigation of this Charge. This determination is final.

Your Determination/Notice of Right to Sue is enclosed. If you wish to pursue this matter you must file a lawsuit, on your own, in Federal District Court using the enclosed *Notice of Right to Sue* within **90 days** of your receipt of it. Once this 90 day period is over, unless you have filed a lawsuit, you will have lost your right to sue. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Investigator Patrick Sanford at (212) 336-3677.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Berry
District Director

FEB 28 2013

Date

CC: Charging Party's Attorney

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To: **Thomas Ciccone**
61 Ramapo Avenue
Suffern, NY 10901

From: **New York District Office**
33 Whitehall Street
5th Floor
New York, NY 10004

☐

On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is
 CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))

EEOC Charge No.

EEOC Representative

Telephone No.

520-2012-02999**Patrick Sanford, Federal Investigator****(212) 336-3677**

THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☐

The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.

☐

Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

☐

The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.

☐

Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge

☒

The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.

☐

The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.

☐

Other (briefly state)

- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit **must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice**; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that **backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.**

On behalf of the Commission

Kevin J. Berry

Kevin J. Berry,
District Director

FEB 28 2013

(Date Mailed)

Enclosures(s)

cc:

Respondent:

RELATED MANAGEMENT

Attn: Sherry Scurfield, Director of Human Resources

205 West 76th Street 423 W. 55th St. 9th Floor
New York, NY 10023 10019

**INFORMATION RELATED TO FILING SUIT
UNDER THE LAWS ENFORCED BY THE EEOC**

*(This information relates to filing suit in Federal or State court under Federal law.
If you also plan to sue claiming violations of State law, please be aware that time limits and other
provisions of State law may be shorter or more limited than those described below.)*

**PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),
the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), or the Age
Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA):**

In order to pursue this matter further, you must file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) named in the charge **within 90 days of the date you receive this Notice**. Therefore, you should **keep a record of this date**. Once this 90-day period is over, your right to sue based on the charge referred to in this Notice will be lost. If you intend to consult an attorney, you should do so promptly. Give your attorney a copy of this Notice, and its envelope, and tell him or her the date you received it. Furthermore, in order to avoid any question that you did not act in a timely manner, it is prudent that your suit be filed **within 90 days of the date this Notice was mailed to you** (as indicated where the Notice is signed) or the date of the postmark, if later.

Your lawsuit may be filed in U.S. District Court or a State court of competent jurisdiction. (Usually, the appropriate State court is the general civil trial court.) Whether you file in Federal or State court is a matter for you to decide after talking to your attorney. Filing this Notice is not enough. You must file a "complaint" that contains a short statement of the facts of your case which shows that you are entitled to relief. Your suit may include any matter alleged in the charge or, to the extent permitted by court decisions, matters like or related to the matters alleged in the charge. Generally, suits are brought in the State where the alleged unlawful practice occurred, but in some cases can be brought where relevant employment records are kept, where the employment would have been, or where the respondent has its main office. If you have simple questions, you usually can get answers from the office of the clerk of the court where you are bringing suit, but do not expect that office to write your complaint or make legal strategy decisions for you.

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Equal Pay Act (EPA):

EPA suits must be filed in court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment: back pay due for violations that occurred **more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit** may not be collectible. For example, if you were underpaid under the EPA for work performed from 7/1/08 to 12/1/08, you should file suit **before 7/1/10 – not 12/1/10** -- in order to recover unpaid wages due for July 2008. This time limit for filing an EPA suit is separate from the 90-day filing period under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA referred to above. Therefore, if you also plan to sue under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA, in addition to suing on the EPA claim, suit must be filed within 90 days of this Notice and within the 2- or 3-year EPA back pay recovery period.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION -- Title VII, the ADA or GINA:

If you cannot afford or have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent you, the U.S. District Court having jurisdiction in your case may, in limited circumstances, assist you in obtaining a lawyer. Requests for such assistance must be made to the U.S. District Court in the form and manner it requires (you should be prepared to explain in detail your efforts to retain an attorney). Requests should be made well before the end of the 90-day period mentioned above, because such requests do not relieve you of the requirement to bring suit within 90 days.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL AND EEOC ASSISTANCE -- All Statutes:

You may contact the EEOC representative shown on your Notice if you need help in finding a lawyer or if you have any questions about your legal rights, including advice on which U.S. District Court can hear your case. If you need to inspect or obtain a copy of information in EEOC's file on the charge, please request it promptly in writing and provide your charge number (as shown on your Notice). While EEOC destroys charge files after a certain time, all charge files are kept for at least 6 months after our last action on the case. Therefore, if you file suit and want to review the charge file, **please make your review request within 6 months of this Notice**. (Before filing suit, any request should be made within the next 90 days.)

IF YOU FILE SUIT, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR COURT COMPLAINT TO THIS OFFICE.

FACTS ABOUT FILING
AN EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION SUIT
IN FEDERAL COURT IN NEW YORK STATE

You have received a document which is the final determination or other final action of the Commission. This ends our handling of your charge. The Commission's action is effective upon receipt. Now, you must decide whether you want to file a private lawsuit in court. This fact sheet answers several commonly asked questions about filing a private lawsuit.

WHERE SHOULD I FILE MY LAWSUIT?

Federal District Courts have strict rules concerning where you may file a suit. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent (employer, union, or employment agency) named in your charge. The appropriate court is the district court which covers either the county where the respondent is located or the county where the alleged act of discrimination occurred. However, you should contact the court directly if you have questions where to file your lawsuit. New York State has four federal districts:

- **The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York** is located at 500 Pearl Street in Manhattan. It covers the counties of Bronx, Dutchess, New York (Manhattan), Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Westchester. (212) 805-0136 <http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov>
- **The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York** is located at 225 Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn and covers the counties of Kings (Brooklyn), Nassau, Queens, Richmond (Staten Island), and Suffolk. (718) 613-2600 <http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov>
- **The United States District Court for the Western District of New York** is located at 68 Court Street in Buffalo. It covers the counties of Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. (716) 551-4211 <http://www.nywd.uscourts.gov>
- **The United States District Court for the Northern District of New York** is located at 100 South Clinton Street in Syracuse and covers the counties of Albany, Broome, Cayuga, Chanango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Onandaga, Oswego, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, and Washington. This District Court's pro Se Attorney has offices at 10 Broad Street in Utica New York. (315) 234-8500 <http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov>

WHEN MUST I FILE MY LAWSUIT?

Your private lawsuit must be filed in U.S. District Court **within 90 days** of the date you receive the enclosed EEOC Notice of Right to Sue. Otherwise, you will have lost your right to sue.

DO I NEED A LAWYER?

No, you do not need a lawyer to file a private suit. You may file a complaint in federal court without a lawyer which is called a pro se complaint. Every district court has either a clerk or staff attorney who can assist you in filing pro se. To find out how to file a pro se complaint, contact the clerk of the court having jurisdiction over your case who can advise you of the appropriate person to assist you and of the procedures to follow, which may vary from district to district.

You may, however, wish to retain a lawyer if you choose. Whether you retain a private attorney, or file pro se, you must file your suit in the appropriate court within 90 days of receiving this mailing.

WHAT IF I WANT A LAWYER BUT I CAN'T AFFORD ONE?

If you can't afford a lawyer, the U.S. District Court which has jurisdiction may assist you in obtaining a lawyer. You must file papers with the court requesting the appointment of counsel. You should consult with the office of the district court that assists pro se complainants for specific instructions on how to seek counsel. The appointment of counsel in any pro se complaint is always at the discretion of the court.

Generally, the U.S. District Court charges a **\$350.00 filing fee** to commence a lawsuit. However, the court may waive the filing fee if you cannot afford to pay it. You should ask the office of the District Court that assists pro se complainants for information concerning the necessary procedure to request that the filing fee be waived.

HOW CAN I FIND A LAWYER?

These are several attorney referral services operated by bar or other attorney organizations which may assist you in finding a lawyer and ascertaining and asserting your legal rights:

American Bar Association
(800) 285-2221 www.abanet.org

New York State Bar Association
(800) 342-3661 www.nysba.org

New York City Bar Association
Association
Legal Referral Service
(212) 626-7373

National Employment Lawyers
Referral Service (212) 819-9450
<http://www.nelany.com/EN>

Other local Bar Associations in your area may also be of assistance.

HOW LONG WILL THE EEOC RETAIN MY CASE FILE?

Generally, the Commission's rules call for your charge file to be destroyed two (2) years from the date of a determination, but time frames may vary. If you file suit and wish to request a copy of your investigative file, you or your attorney should make the request in writing as soon as possible. If you file suit, you or your attorney should also notify this office when the lawsuit is resolved.